

What Are We Doing With What God Has Given to Us?

John 6

As people strive to get closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ, what will our adversary do to thwart us? Solomon prayed about that too.

Proverbs 30: 7 to 9 - Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

And taking the Lord's Name in vain, is going on everywhere.

You may have noticed lately the large number of scandals coming to the surface. The list includes extravagant expense accounts, bribery, immorality in religion, politics, sports, entertainment etc. What is going on? This is the day of extreme self-gratification. And the sin of shallowness is all around us.

But everyone should consider;

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God has His Standards, and they are very demanding.

Luke 14: 25 to 27 - And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

There are examples in the following passages,

Matthew 14: 13 to 21,

Mark 6: 30 to 44,

& Luke 9: 10 to 17, but we will use

John 6: 1 to 14 - After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea* of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men

sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Isn't it good when people give their all to Our Lord Jesus? This little boy gave all his food. And it was sufficient. In fact, if he had only one fish and one barley loaf; it would have been enough. And those twelve baskets of left-overs were a good reminder of Our Lord's abundance.

Of all the people who gave their tithes and offerings; who was commended by Our Lord Jesus?

Luke 21: 1 to 4 - And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

So how does this relate to us to-day? What has God given us?

Everyone has a unique skillset, different amounts of abilities, & resources. But we all have 24 hours every day. How is our time spent? In a recent poll, it was discovered that people spent 35 hours a week on internet & TV. What's the typical schedule?

**8 hours for work, 1 hour for lunch, 1 hour for travel,
1 hour to get up & to eat breakfast, 1 hour for supper, 8 hours for sleep.
That makes 20 hours for the basics. Plus 5 hours for entertainment.
The total now is 25 hours each day. I think that we have a problem.**

What about personal and family devotions, church worship & Christian service? God provides so abundantly for us, what do we do for Him?

This situation is not new, it's been around for years.

Many churches had only 10% of their members regularly attended. Yet they gave 65% of the budget.

Most were C & E-ers. That means that they only went at Christmas and Easter. A good dose of salvation might help.

In the recent Olympics, how many athletes won medals training for 2 1 hour sessions per year?

First Peter has a lot of advice for godly living, and should be studied on a regular basis.

Maybe we do need the return of the Puritans. This group, wanting a closer walk with Our Lord Jesus, put aside all worldly trivialities. Of course, they were mocked by the organized religions. But I prefer their Biblical study material, over most of the modern works.

Luke 14: 25 to 27 - And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

If our dedication is not complete, then we are like the Hebrews in the wilderness.

Psalms 78: 40 to 42 - How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, *nor* the day when he delivered them from the enemy.

We cannot limit God, but we can limit what He does through us.

There are two options.

Numbers 14: 4 - And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Hosea 6:1 - Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Where are we now? Where does Our Lord Jesus want us to be?

May He give us the grace, mercy and peace to make the right choice.

And may the Holy Spirit give us the sustaining strength to carry it through.

Do we really have to be concerned?

Romans 14: 12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Matthew 12: 36 - But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

And even religious leaders are being watched.

Luke 16: 1 to 15 - And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. So he called every

one of his lord's debtors unto him , and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore. And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. And so, the question remains?

What Are You doing with what God has given to You?

What are you doing with the deliverance and freedom that God has given you? Are we like Blind Bart, who when healed, followed Jesus Christ?

Or are we like the nine lepers, who when healed, kept going their own way.

Amen.

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